

REMARKS

Claims 4, 5 and 41-47 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 6-40 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, claims 4 and 5 are amended, and claims 41-47 are added. The title and the Abstract are also amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4 and 5. By this Amendment, claims 4 and 5 are rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claims 4 and 5 are allowable.

The Office Action objects to the title as allegedly not being descriptive. To expedite prosecution, the title is amended as suggested by the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Office Action requires that the Abstract be revised. The Abstract is revised as suggested by the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

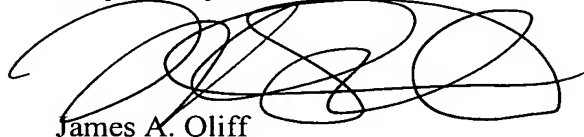
The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,537,732 to Kamijima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,316 to Hasegawa. This rejection is moot because claims 1-3 and 6 are canceled by this Amendment. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 41-47 are added. Claims 41 and 44 recite features corresponding to the subject matter of canceled claim 2. Claims 42 and 45 recite features corresponding to the subject matter of canceled claim 3. Claims 43 and 47 recite features corresponding to the subject matter of canceled claim 6. Claim 44 recites a feature corresponding to the feature recited claim 4. Claims 41-47 are allowable at least for their dependence on claims 4 and 5, respectively, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:KXH

Attachment:
Substitute Abstract

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